

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Goodhind (Chair)  
Councillor C Forgacs (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor G Cooke  
Councillor C Houghton  
Councillor L Lewis  
Councillor S Mortimer  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor T Price

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor P Aves  
Councillor J Hubbard

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Patsy Clover	Deputy Town Clerk
	Hugh Davies	Head of Operations
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** One member of the public and one member of the press were present. Three members of the public and one member of the press were present virtually.

Adrienne Westbrook asked three questions: -

1. King George V Park zip wire – why was the zip wire not on tonight’s agenda? She was promised it would be on this meeting’s agenda. The zip wire was broken in April 2020 and taken out of action in August/September 2020. Why has it taken so long to replace?
2. Parks Working Group – this group does not require a public agenda and will be making decisions and discussing a public consultation behind closed doors. Why can these issues not be discussed in public?
3. Sensory Garden Sculpture – why was the sculpture for King George V park on the agenda as a confidential item? She stated she was unhappy about decisions that should be made public being discussed behind closed doors.

#### **96/21 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Crundell who was substituted by Councillor Mortimer.

#### **97/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **98/21 Minutes**

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Forgacs and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of 14 February 2022, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Goodhind.

**99/21      Update on Public Toilets in Melksham**

The report of the Head of Operations was noted.

The Head of Operations provided an update on the outstanding works:

- Bath Road Toilets – two cubicles are functional. The Head of Operations is waiting for a cleaning quote and the lease to be returned from the Town Council's solicitor. The toilets will be open in the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- Eco Loos – the groundworks inspection has been completed. Confirmation of full costs is awaited. The concrete near the pavilion will be replaced and the bike rack will be installed in the same area. Services from the pavilion can be utilised in the Eco Loos. It is anticipated that the Eco Loos will be opened by the end of June 2022
- Market Place Toilets –completed signage is awaited and the doors have to be painted.

**100/21      Memorial Bench and Donations Policy**

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that members would need to decide whether to adopt the revised version of the Memorial Bench and Donations policy, as delegated by Full Council or the version revised by the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, and other councillors.

It was proposed by Councillor Mortimer, seconded by Councillor Aves and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to adopt the councillor's revised version of the Memorial Bench and Donations policy.

**101/21      King George V (KGV) Park**

**101/21.1      Opening the Splash Pad**

The Head of Operations explained that the Splashpad had opened earlier than last year and was well attended during the Easter weekend. He advised that the cost of utilities has increased.

It was proposed by Councillor Houghton, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**RESOLVED that:**

- the Splashpad would open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Sunday, weather permitting.
- staff would check the Splashpad prior to opening with closures published on social media and the website by 10.00 am.
- a survey of usage of the Splashpad would be undertaken with the results submitted to the Asset Management and Amenities Committee no later than the end of October 2022 as part of the budget setting process.

**101/21.2      Lighting Comparison for King George V (KGV) Park**

The report of the Head of Operations was noted.

Members considered, lighting levels, biodiversity, safety and security, ambiance, battery life and running and installation costs for the project. The Head of Operations reported that the facility for hard wired lighting is in place for part of the park but that this would be the more expensive option due to the ground works required. He confirmed that the quotes received were not for low level lighting.

It was proposed by Councillor Houghton, seconded by Councillor G Cooke and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Parks Working Group to bring recommendations to the Asset Management and Amenities meeting scheduled for 27 June 2022, regarding lighting requirements for King George V park and Murray Walk, taking into consideration ambience, safety and security and the use of low level lighting.

**102/21      Parks Working Group - Consultation with the Community**

The report of the Head of Operations was noted.

The committee agreed that the green space consultation to be undertaken by the Parks Working Group should:

- establish what residents want from Melksham's parks.
- work with the children's centre, outreach workers, mother and toddler groups, juniors club, schools and older children to obtain a wide of responses.
- last two to three months to obtain a good response in a co-ordinated fashion.
- obtain information regarding which parks are used the most, why parks are not used and the age groups of those using the parks.
- obtain 'ring-fenced' names, addresses and postcodes from respondents for further communication regarding the consultation.

It was agreed that councillors would visit other council's parks to provide information about their facilities.

**103/21 Disposal of Assets**

The report of the Head of Operations was noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Forgacs , seconded by Councillor Mortimer and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Head of Operations to sell the cherry picker, the AV cameras and the bowser and to offer the remaining equipment to community groups to 'bid' for.

**104/21 Confidential Session**

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, seconded by Councillor Forgacs and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted the press and public were requested to withdraw.

**104/21.1 Sculpture for the Sensory Garden**

It was proposed by Councillor Forgacs, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask officers to cancel the order for the art sculpture with the artist and to request that the £1,000 set aside by the artist for potential works be returned to the Council.

Meeting Closed at: 9.26 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**